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# Message Text

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44
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NEA-10 SY-10 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /163 W
---------- 043791
R 100900Z JUL 73
FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2030
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ
SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF ATTACK ON AIR TAXI PLANE NORTH OF GORON-
GOSA PARK

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 430 AND 433

1. DURING MY VISIT TO BEIRA JULY 7, HOTELS COMPLETELY FILLED, AND TOURIST CROWDS SEEMED AS LARGE AS USUAL ON THIS RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN HOLIDAY WEEKEND. NEWSPAPERS ESTIMATED TOTAL INFLOW OF 13,400 OVER WEEKEND.

2. HOWEVER, FROM MY TALKS WITH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS IT IS CLEAR THAT KILLING OF SPANISH SURGEON DID NOT PASS
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UNNOTICED, AND THAT PORTUGUESE CONSIDERABLY IRRITATED BY WHAT

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THEY CONSIDER OVER-REACTION IN RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS. GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE TO ME OVER ACCOUNT IN JULY 3 ISSUE OF JOHANNESBURG STAR WHICH GAVE TWO COLUMN HEADLINED FRONT-PAGE SPREAD TO AMBUSH, BUT ONLY THREE INCHES ON INTERNAL PAGE TO FIGURES ON PORTUGUESE SUCCESSES AGAINST FRELIMO GUERRILLAS DURING PAST SIX MONTHS. (REPORTED IN LOURENCO MARQUES 430).

3. ATTACK AT FIRST CAUSED SUFFICIENT WORRY IN BEIRA FOR GENERAL DE ARRIAGA TO FEEL IT ADVISABLE TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 7 TO ALLAY PUBLIC CONCERN, IN WHICH HE REMINDED LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS OF RISE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT WORLD, AND POINTED OUT THAT ON SAME DAY AS AIR TAXI AMBUSH THE WELL-GUARDED ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN IRAQ WERE ASSASSINATED. HE SAID IT IS DANGEROUS TO WALK THE STREETS IN MANY CITIES OF THE WORLD; IN TETE AND BEIRA, HOWEVER, ANYONE CAN BE ON STREET AT ANY TIME WITHOUT RISK.

4. BEIRA DISTRICT GOVERNOR SOUSA TELLES TOLD ME THERE WAS NO UNDUE CONCERN OVER AIR TAXI ATTACK. HE SAID ONE COULD NOT REALISTICALLY PREVENT ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT FROM HAPPENING ALMOST ANYWHERE, INCLUDING BEIRA CITY, BUT THESE DID NOT AFFECT OVERALL FIRM CONTROL WHICH PORTUGUESE CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. HE SAID HE EXPECTS ADDITIONAL TROUBLES THROUGH REST OF JULY AND AUGUST, BUT IN SEPTEMBER, WHEN 5,000 NEW GES AND GEPS EMERGE FROM DONDO TRAINING GROUNDS, PICTURE SHOULD IMPROVE RADICALLY.
VAN OSS

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**TAGS:** PINS, MOPS, MZ
**To:** STATE
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